

***Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
Park Advisory Commission Meeting***

March 20, 2008

Middletown Town Hall
Middletown, Virginia

Agenda

- I) General Introduction
- II) Approval of Pam Sheets, Shenandoah County Representative—Jacox
- III) Review and Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2007, meeting
- IV) Commissioner bios—Grogg
- V) Park Web Site, www.nps.gov/cebe
- VI) **Internal Draft GMP for Commission Review**
 - A) GMP Status Update—Stubbs
 - B) Presentation on reading the internal draft GMP—Stubbs
 - C) Discussion on Commission Review of GMP—commission members
- VII) Old Business
- VIII) New Business
- IX) Next Meeting—June 19, 2008, Warren County Government Center

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Fred Andreae; Mary Bowser; Gene Dicks; Patrick Farris; Howard Kittell; Elizabeth McClung; Gary Rinkerman; Pam Sheets; Jim Smalls; Dan Stickley; and Kris Tierney, chair.

Commission members absent: Roy Downey, Randy Jones.

Others in attendance: Carl Bernhards, Jr, Greater Middletown Business Association; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Stanley Hirschberg, M.D., Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Stephanie Mangino, *Winchester Star*; Babs Melton, Hupps Hill Historical Park; Stephanie Pendleton, local resident; Nicholas Picerno, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Steve Shipe, local resident; Chris Stubbs, NPS.

Chair Kris Tierney opened the meeting.

Superintendent Diann Jacox announced that Pam Sheets's appointment to the Commission had been confirmed by the Secretary of the Interior. Jacox and Tierney presented Sheets with a notebook containing the documents relevant to her role as a Commission member.

The minutes from the December 13, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Bob Grogg announced that all the commissioner bios were completed and now available on the park's web site. Chris Stubbs continued that discussion and informed everyone present that Cedar Creek and Belle Grove now has the assistance of a Saratoga National Historical Park employee who will work on upgrading and enlarging the local park's web presence.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to distributing the internal review copies of the General Management Plan, explaining to the commissioners which parts called for their greatest attention, and discussing how best the commission members should proceed in their review so that they will be well prepared once the document is released to the public.

Stubbs told the commission members that the copies now in their hands were for their use only; the NPS Washington Office has not given approval for the document to be printed and released to the public. That approval should come after the review by the Deputy Director for Operations, Dan Wenk. The final version will also have the agency preferred alternative identified; the internal draft GMP does not do so.

The commissioners discussed at length how best to review the document and provide comments to the full commission. Both Jacox and Stubbs stressed that it would be inappropriate for either of them to be part of the commissioners' review, but that if the subcommittee needed clarification or answers to questions, either or both would be available. After some time a consensus arose that each member should read as much of the document as possible, guided by the recommendations Stubbs had given them (see copy of presentation attached to these notes), develop a statement or a letter about their reaction to the document, and submit that letter to a subcommittee. That subcommittee, composed of Mary Bowser, Patrick Farris, Howard Kittell, Elizabeth McClung, Randy Jones, and Gary Rinkerman, will read all the comments and compile and compose one letter representing the views of the Commission. Howard Kittell will serve as chair of the subcommittee. Any commission member who wishes to submit comments should do so by April 30, 2008. The subcommittee will present its comments at the next commission meeting.

There were questions about how the public meetings on the draft GMP would be conducted. Stubbs explained that taking comments from the public is an important part of the process and is, in fact, required. Some members thought it might be best to use the facilities at Lord Fairfax Community College for the meeting in Middletown as the town hall may not be large enough.

Old Business and New Business

There was neither any old business nor new business.

The next meeting will be June 19, 2008, in the Warren County Government Center.

Chair Kris Tierney adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Handouts provided at the March 20, 2008, meeting

1. Meeting agenda
2. Meeting Notes from the December 13, 2007, meeting
3. How to Read the Internal Draft GMP – PowerPoint presentation